

MINUTES
City of New Castle Tree Commission Meeting
May 6, 2013 -- 5:30 p.m.
City of New Castle Town Hall

Members Present: John Lloyd
Nancy Coning
Pam Patone
Erv Thatcher
Tom Truman

Also Present: Debbie Turner, Stenographer

Mr. Lloyd convened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum is present.

Minutes – New Business, Page 2, delete reference to Mr. Thatcher speaking with the Trustees about planting in Memorial Park. The Trustees' position is not to plant trees in Battery Park. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the 4/1/13 meeting minutes as corrected. Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

The April 2013 tree pruning and removal lists were discussed. The Tree Commission is charged with making recommendations for tree work (based on convenience, safety, and health of tree) to City Council. It is City Council's responsibility to approve necessary action.

Russ Carlson (arborist) will evaluate the elm trees soon.

Oaks trees pruning at the corner of Routes 273 and 141 – some of the cuts were not good.

NEW BUSINESS

Locust tree between 26-28 The Strand – property owners are concerned. Branches were trimmed in March 2013. Homeowners were informed by the tree trimmer that the tree is sick and should be removed. A decision is sought on whether the tree will be trimmed back or removed. No decision was rendered. The tree will be looked at, possibly including an arborist.

Ms. Keyser has resigned from the Tree Commission.

Elm tree (119 Delaware Street) – Appears to be healthy. Branches intermingling with wires will be trimmed by MSC. Trucks hit branches. Roots are causing sidewalk issues that must be addressed before the homeowner can sell the home. Sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowner. **A motion was made and seconded to remove the elm tree at 119 Delaware Street.** Russ Carlson (arborist) can look at the tree to determine its overall condition and external effects of the tree. It is believed the tree will eventually need to be removed and not to include this tree in the upcoming elm inspection. MSC will trim branches as a precaution. **Motion approved.**

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(approx.) 217 Harmony Street – Cherry tree is causing major sidewalk damage nearing the home. **Motion was made, seconded, and approved to remove the cherry tree.**

Residents of 600 and 602 Delaware Street -- Request received to look at a sycamore tree in front of 600 Delaware and its impact on the bricks. Mr. Lloyd believes remediation of the sidewalk is possible. Commissioners will look at the situation and report back in June.

Ms. Patone announced a press release is going out about a tree being donated to the City in recognition of Earth Day. The Tree Commission and Beautification Committee may be consulted for planting locations.

Mr. Lloyd reported one of the trees (elm or sycamore) planted with the Delaware Center for Horticulture has been broken in half. Location is across the street from St. Anthony's Club.

Adjournment

There being no more business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.